

**Business Area # 9:
Porter Square/ North
Cambridge**

Boundaries: bordered by the Somerville line, the Arlington Line, the Alewife Brook Parkway and the Boston & Maine Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks



Porter Square

Larcenies from buildings fell 31% in the first six months of 2001. The only noted cluster was reported from various business offices in the 2000-2400 blocks of Massachusetts Avenue. Four businesses reported various items such as laptops and televisions missing. • **Larcenies from persons** increased 85% due to four reports of larcenies from shoppers at the Star Market at 49 White Street. The larcenies typically occurred on Saturday nights between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. • Despite a 40% increase in **commercial breaks**, no patterns were reported. The majority of breaks involved business offices and two involved the theft of laptops. • The first **commercial robbery** occurred at the Blockbuster Video at 820 Somerville Avenue. Two suspects hid behind a staircase and waited for a worker to leave with the daily deposits. When the worker came out, the two suspects displayed a knife and took the deposits. A Jefferson Park man was later arrested. The second commercial robbery occurred at the Mobile Gas Station at Massachusetts Avenue and Route 16. An Arlington man entered the station and demanded two flags that were hanging up. When the worker said no, the suspect grabbed the worker by the neck and stole the flag. The man was later arrested. • Two **flim flams** were reported in the first six months of 2001. One involved two suspects posing as Water Department employees – the victim became suspicious and the suspects fled before stealing anything. The second involved a victim who was fooled into taking money out of her bank account and giving it to two suspects. The suspects got away with \$3000 cash.

CRIME	2 nd Quarter 2000	2 nd Quarter 2001	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	16	11	-31%
Larceny from Person	7	13	+86%
Commercial Burglary	5	7	+40%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	+100%
Shoplifting	14	12	-14%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	11	15	+36%